

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Capitol Building, Room 172, Helena, Montana
Thursday, April 20, 2006

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members Judy Cole, Shirley Groff, Bill Holt, Kent Kleinkopf, Katherine Lee, Jack Lepley, Sharon Lincoln, Steve Lozar, Bob Morgan, Jim Murry, Lee Rostad, and Jim Utterback. Trustee Tom Foor attended the meeting via conference call. Also in attendance were MHS Acting Director Mark Baumler, MHS Centralized Services Manager Jody Brandt, MHS Research Center Program Manager Molly Kruckenberg, MHS Director of Museum Services Susan Near, MHS Administrative Officer Gena Ashmore, MHS Fiscal Officer Beth Campbell, MHS IT Administrator Chris Carson, MHS Public Information Officer Tom Cook, MHS Curator of Art Kirby Lambert, MHS Administrative Assistant Vanessa Verrill, Montana History Foundation Executive Director Amy Sullivan, and Friends of the Society President Marge Jacobson. Also addressing the Board were Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission Director Clint Blackwood, MHS Registrar Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney, Senator Duane Grimes, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commissioner Hal Stearns, Executive Director of the Montana Heritage Commission Jeff Tiberi, and Department of Administration Architecture and Engineering Division Planning Manager Joe Triem.

CALL TO ORDER

President Lee Rostad called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Lee introduced Bob Morgan to the most recently appointed Trustees.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Jim Murry moved to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2006 meeting, Shirley Groff seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT

Mark Baumler presented the Director's Quarterly Report. Mark explained various items in the Board packet and highlighted several items in the Quarterly Report. He also passed around a list of the most recent accessions of the Research Center.

Mark explained that funds from the \$150,000 Preserve America grant received by the Historic Preservation Office will be used for re-grants to qualifying communities and for publications including the place names book and the proposed barns of Montana book.

Mark introduced Chris Carson, MHS Information Technology Systems Administrator. He also gave an update on staff member Dave Walter who recently experienced a stroke and read a thank-you note from Marcella Sherfy and Dave.

The Museum program received a \$30,000 grant from the National Park Service Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail which will go to educational programming and outreach for the *Neither Empty Nor Unknown* (NENUK) exhibit. The Museums Association of Montana contacted the

Society to request that a Last Chance Bear be exhibited in front of the museum. The bear will display the various logos of MAM museums with the MHS logo placed prominently in front.

Susan Near showed the Board native-made artifacts that will be used in the NENUK exhibit. She also passed around tokens and tickets from the Helena Hot Springs and Smelter Railroad which were recently transferred to MHS from the Gallatin County Historical Society.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Jody Brandt presented the financial schedules for the quarter ending March 31, 2006. She pointed out that the State Historic Preservation Office received a loan of \$150,000 until the FY06 federal funds from the National Park Service are received, which will hopefully come in by May. At that time, the general loan will be paid back. The same process was done last year.

Jody has projected MHS operating expenses and personal services through the end of the fiscal year, and it appears that the Society will be short approximately \$36,000 in general fund appropriation authority. Jody has been addressing this issue with the Budget Office.

Jim Utterback moved to accept the financial report, Kent Kleinkopf seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Jim Utterback gave a Finance Committee report. At the last Board meeting Lee Rostad asked Jody Brandt to look at how the entrance fees are being spent and if there are areas where expenses could be cut. Jody passed around an entrance fee analysis. Entrance fee income for the first nine months of 2006 compared to the same timeframe in 2005 is down 21%. Jody was able to cut \$19,000 in expenses out of the entrance fees in FY 2006 and \$50,000 for the FY 2007 budget. Even with the expense cuts, MHS is projected to be short approximately \$9,000 by the end of 2007. The challenge to the Board and the Society is how to make up \$155,000 that is budgeted to this fund each fiscal year. The Finance Committee discussed raising entrance fees and a more aggressive marketing approach. The committee does not have an answer right now, but will continue to look at the problem. The committee will poll other museums in the area to see how MHS entrance fees presently compare. The general fund that was lost during the FY 2003 legislative budget cuts has never been able to be made up.

Jim Murry commented that the Finance Committee report speaks to the need of raising money from private contributions, and he emphasized that the Society needs a Director who really understands fundraising. Lee Rostad asked if donations must go through the Montana History Foundation. Jody Brandt clarified that donations can come directly to the Society, but these donations are usually designated for specific purposes. Amy Sullivan added that some donors prefer to donate to the Foundation rather than the Society because when money is donated to the State, some donations fall under restrictive laws. Planned gifts such as annuities cannot be accepted by the Society, but can be accepted by MHF. Shirley Groff asked if donations can be used for operating expenses. Jody Brandt answered that if the donations are undesignated, they can be used for general operations of the Society, and the current budget was built on receiving undesignated donations at a certain level. We are about \$50,000 short in this area.

Kent Kleinkopf asked if individual contributions are treated the same from the tax standpoint whether they are given to MHF or MHS. Bill Holt said that MHS received the biggest gift in-kind, the Scriver collection, valued at \$15 million, and Bob Scriver was able to write that off. Jim Utterback stated that appreciative property and cash are handled differently by the IRS. Bob Morgan said that since MHF is a 501(c)(3) it is acceptable to receive donations. Jim said that he would bring a synopsis of tax laws to the next meeting. Amy Sullivan added that if MHS receives cash donations, the legislature can take it; the legislature can not take the donations from the Foundation.

OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

Montana History Foundation

Amy Sullivan presented a PowerPoint presentation on the relationship and the history between the Montana History Foundation and the Montana Historical Society. Bill Holt stated that without the help of the Foundation, we could not have purchased Virginia and Nevada Cities. Bill questioned the funding of the Scriver Center and said that the Tourism Advisory Council pays rent for the building. Amy said the Scriver Center was built in response to the Society's need to house the Scriver collection. Bill asked about Reeder's Alley, and Amy clarified that MHF does not raise money for Reeder's Alley. Bill brought up the new History Center, and Amy stated that the History Center is a very complex issue with much to be discussed. If the Foundation was to purchase the mall, there are some benefits in developing it that the State could not do, but the Foundation does not necessarily want to own another building. Lee Rostad concluded that MHS will work with the Foundation on the new History Center project, but whether it is a partner with the existing Foundation still needs to be decided.

Kent Kleinkopf thanked Amy for her presentation. He asked if there had ever been any thought given to developing a committee to be a working group and liaison with the Foundation. Lee Rostad responded that two of the Board members are on the MHF Board -- the current President and Bob Morgan as an emeritus. Bob Morgan said that in his 50 plus years connected with the Society, this is the first time that he has seen the Foundation have any money to work with and that it has an excellent lobbyist, Amy, working for it. The framework is there, there has been progress made, and this is the best situation the Society has had with the Foundation. Jim Murry thanked Lee Rostad and Mark Baumler for inviting Amy to the meeting to explain to the Board what their relationship is. Jim asked if MHF is an entity of the MHS, and Amy responded that it is a separate entity. The IRS dictates that to be a 501(c)(3), the Foundation has to maintain an "arm's length" from the Society. The MHF Board is completely voluntary, and it wants to help the Society, as does she. Kent said that the purpose of his original question was to find out how the two entities can help each other. Mark Baumler asked if Amy would be a regular attendee of the Trustee's meetings to give updates and Amy said she would be happy to do so.

Senate Art Project

Senator Duane Grimes gave a brief history of the Senate Art project. When sales of the maquettes were slowing down, Senator Grimes “hit the road” with his maquette and urged local bankers and businesses to purchase. Senator Grimes’ concern is that there may be a funding shortfall because of lagging sales, and the final piece may not be able to be finished and installed as planned. He requested that if a funding crisis occurs, the Board consider a loan from the Alberta Bair Trust.

Hal Stearns introduced himself and said that he and Kirby Lambert, MHS Curator of Art, visited Eugene Daub in California and viewed the clay mold, which was magnificent. Hal stated that all of the maquettes and medallions must be sold in order to finance this project. Hal urged the Board to step up and help with sales. A packet was put together for the MHS Board and the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission to use to help promote the maquettes. Gena Ashmore gave the Board members the information packet.

Mark Baumler gave an update on maquette sales. Mark thanked Senator Grimes, Clint Blackwood, and Hal Stearns for helping to sell maquettes. MHS is obligated by statute to have this artwork commissioned and created. Mark reported that 35 maquettes out of 75 and 620 bronze medallions out of 1,000 have been sold. Currently there is \$12,000 in the bank, all bills have been paid, and there is enough money to make the second payment for the casting of the artwork to the foundry next month. Two more foundry payments of \$11,200 each will have to be made by September, and then there will be the final artist payment of \$41,667, the cost of installation of approximately \$15,000, and the repayment of a start-up loan for \$50,000 from the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission.

There is a need to have a contingency fund in case we are not able to keep up with expenses based on sales. We simply have to find the money to complete the project. The Montana History Foundation holds for us an Art Acquisition Fund that is compiled of money from revenue from the Western Rendezvous of Art and from a private donation. Mark Baumler has proposed that \$30,000 be kept in reserve in this fund in case we need to tap into it to ensure that the Senate Art project is completed. Jim Murry said that it was his understanding that the art would be paid with the maquette sales, but it sounds like even if all maquettes are sold, there still will not be enough money. Gena Ashmore clarified that if all the maquettes and medallions sell, we will be able to pay the foundry, the artist and the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission loan. There should be approximately \$12,000 left for installation, though the actual price of installation is not known. This project has had a lot of hidden costs, and there is also a closing ceremony that will need to be funded at the end. Gena said that the idea of selling maquettes and medallions was brought up after the project was mandated by the legislature; originally the project was to be funded through private fundraising. Senator Grimes added that the project was never to be funded by taxpayer dollars, and if there are costs after all of the maquettes are sold, funds could possibly be available through the Senate and the Capitol Restoration fund that may be applied to installation costs.

Bill Holt suggested that an information booth be set up at various locations and signature events in order to promote the maquettes. Clint Blackwood said that he has talked to the people in

Missoula who are responsible for the signature event about having a Senate Art display. He is also looking into having a maquette replica at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The signature event in Billings has a fee of \$300 for a booth, and there might not be enough money for this. The revenue of the sales of the Lewis & Clark license plates is still being looked into as a possible funding source. There has also been a question in the Governor's Office as to whether bed tax monies have gone to the funding of this project, and Clint said that answer is no. The Bicentennial Commission has talked about using the license plate revenue for doing a sign grant program, but it may be possible some of this money can go to the Senate Art project if needed.

Gena Ashmore reported that the next big payment due to the foundry of \$11,200 is due July 15. Only four maquettes need to be sold in order to make this payment. If everyone made an effort to sell the maquettes to their friends and colleagues, this should not be a problem.

Sharon Lincoln made a motion to take money out of the art acquisition fund that is held at the Montana History Foundation when and if it becomes necessary, Bob Morgan seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Jim Murry mentioned that he thought that MHS is a couple of years late on the project and questioned Hal Stearns as to whether 40 maquettes could be sold by September if only 35 have been sold so far. Hal answered that the artist began behind schedule, which is the nature of artists. He reiterated that in the next few months it is critical that everyone work person-to-person in order to sell the maquettes. Jack Lepley said that the pieces are an investment, and they should be sold to people as an investment due to the artist's reputation. Tom Cook said that he has been pushing the Public Service Announcements and ads on television heavily the last month and a half so this is the time to approach people personally.

Board Member Emeritus

Lee Rostad stated that Bob Morgan will not seek reappointment to the Board when his term expires on June 30, 2006. **Mark Baumler read a motion on behalf of Lee to make Bob Morgan an Emeritus Member of the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees, Judy Cole seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.** Bob Morgan thanked everyone and said it has been a great fifty years. He wished he could stay with it but realized that he can not because the doctors told him he had to slow down. Lee Rostad read a certificate that was given to Bob from the Board of Trustees making him an Emeritus member of the MHS Board of Trustees. A book, which was signed by members of the Board, was also given to him.

Montana History Center

Mark Baumler gave an update on the History Center, which he had also emailed to the Board of Trustees from Joe Triem of Department of Architecture and Engineering. The exchange of appraisals will occur on or about April 21, which will tell how close the owner's said property value is to the State's assessment. Sometime thereafter there will be a meeting with all parties, including the Montana History Foundation. Mark stated that Joe Triem has offered to allow the Board to look at the structural and environmental studies that have been completed, and Joe has also offered to "interpret" these documents.

Joe Triem addressed the Board and reiterated that the State and the mall owner are in the process of exchanging appraisals. The Legal Department of Department of Administration will tell us when it is okay to disclose some of the proprietary information. The structural, civil, architectural code, mechanical and electrical, and Phase 1 environmental site assessment analyses and the hazardous material survey have been completed. These reports are public record, so anyone can look at them at anytime. Nothing unexpected was uncovered.

Kent Kleinkopf asked if we are keeping our expected timeline, and Lee Rostad responded that we have no timeline until all of the documents are available. After this we have 30 days to peruse the documents. Joe Triem said that the timeline is driven by the State and if it chooses to make an offer on the property. There is an agreement that is formalized with the mall owner to study the feasibility of the mall for the uses of the Historical Society. We are also waiting for the fair market value of the property in order to ensure that the State does not pay more than that if it chooses to make an offer. As soon as the appraisals are done, the State has 30 days per the study agreement to decide if it wants to move forward. Either side can opt out of the negotiations. The Governor's Office is a huge player in this because the only money that has been appropriated is the \$7.5 million bond proceeds which would be sold if the decision was to move forward with the purchase.

Bob Morgan asked if the Capital Hill Mall does not appraise, is there another option or are we tied into that location. Joe Triem said that the language in the bill is not site-specific. The question would be legislative intent, which would need to be answered by Mr. Petesch of Legislative Legal Services.

Executive Planning Process/Budget and Legislation

Mark Baumler said that budget proposals focusing on reestablishing funding for some of the core activities and information technology of the Society are almost ready for the Governor's Budget Office. The next step is to submit these proposals in the form of individual decision packages to the Governor's Budget Office. The deadline for submission is May 1. There are also two legislative proposals: the first is an amendment to the code that pertains to the naming of State buildings in the Capital Complex, and the second deals with the make-up of the Board of Trustees, adding stipulated positions for an authority on Western art and a tribal member.

CM Russell Catalog Update

Based on questions raised by the Board at the last meeting, Kirby Lambert shared information that he and Molly Holz had found regarding other Russell publications. The first was a Larry Peterson book which was published in 1999 with a run of 500 and had a purchase price of \$95. This book is now sold out, and if you can find it, it sells for about \$300. Another book was done by Will Gillam of the Amon Carter Museum. This book was published in a run of 10,000, sold for \$95 and was co-published with Abrams. Will Gillam feels that in order to make money, it is important to do a run of at least 7,500; anything less than that is more of just a cost-recovery. Will had also mentioned to Molly not to skimp on advertising. The last major publication of a Russell book was done in 1999. Kirby stated that the MHS book would fill an exclusive niche

because it would have a strong Montana focus. Two major Russell exhibition shows are underway and are slated for 2009-2010. These may end up at the Smithsonian, so it would be perfect timing to have our catalog available during this timeframe.

Mark Baumler asked how long the project would take to complete, and Kirby thought it would take about two to two-and-a-half years. Jack Lepley asked how many books would need to be sold before a profit is made, and Kirby responded about half. Lee Rostad suggested that we look for a grant to see if it would be possible to fund this project. Bob Morgan thought it would be possible to find a sponsor, and that it is time that the Historical Society had a catalog. Bill Holt asked about the possibility of partnering with a printer, and Kirby said that this would be a possibility using a printer such as the University of Oklahoma Press. However, MHS would not have a complete say or as much control over the final project if they partnered with a press, but a press would bring other connections.

Other Pertinent Issues

Lee Rostad said that Ellen Baumler has had four articles recently in various magazines, including a new magazine Distinctly Montana. Lee suggested that it would be a good idea for more people at the Historical Society to take advantage of writing magazine articles as it is free, while it costs money to place ads.

Judy Cole thanked the editor and staff of *Montana The Magazine of Western History* for the article written by Martha Kohl about the historic signs in Forsyth. Tom Cook did an article that made the front page of the Forsyth newspaper about the article in the magazine. Katherine Lee added and appreciated that there was also an article that referred to her Bed and Breakfast, The Charley Montana House, in *Montana The Magazine of Western History*.

NEW BUSINESS

Library Deaccessions

Molly Kruckenberg followed up on a request from the last Board of Trustees meeting regarding a deaccession of a non-Montana Genealogy collection. Molly said the State Genealogical Society has agreed to take the collection and put it in their designated library, which is the Lewis and Clark County Library in Helena. **Jim Utterback moved to approve this deaccession, Jim Murry seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Molly Kruckenberg presented the quarterly library deaccession. **Jim Utterback moved to approve the library deaccession, Judy Cole seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Loan Requests

The Bradford Brinton Memorial and Museum, Big Horn, Wyoming, has requested two M.D. Dolph paintings from our museum collection for an exhibit. **Steve Lozar moved to accept the**

staff recommendation of the loan request to Bradford Brinton, Sharon Lincoln seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Per the request of Bill Holt, Susan Near explained what the loan fee was and elements that the staff looks at to decide whether or not a loan is acceptable. MHS receives full credit for loan items.

Jim Murry moved to accept the staff recommendation of the Loan Request of a wooden camera tripod to the Montana Agriculture Center and Museum, Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Museum Deaccession Requests

Wayne Leicht of Laguna Beach, California sent a letter to the Society offering to purchase the wire gold specimen from the Wells Fargo Gold Collection for the sum of \$150,000. The museum collections staff recommended not to deaccession and sell any portion of the Wells Fargo Gold Collection.

Bill Holt moved to accept the staff recommendation of denying the Deaccession Request of the Wells Fargo Gold Collection, Jim Murry seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney presented the emergency deaccession for items that were housed at the Scriber Center that were infested with bugs. The items were discarded per the museum policy, and the situation is currently being monitored to prevent any further infestation. A saddle pad was recently found with bug infestation, and it has been placed in the freezer until approval for destruction. The saddle pad should be added to the Deaccession List. **Jim Utterback moved to accept the staff recommendation of accepting the Deaccession List including the saddle pad, Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

State Archivist Approval

Mark Baumler stated that Jodie Foley was temporarily performing the duties of the State Archivist. She has now been hired into this position permanently, and the Society would like Board approval, pursuant to MCA 22-3-202 to continue to have her as the designated State Archivist. **Bob Morgan moved to accept Jodie Foley as the State Archivist, Sharon Lincoln seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

MHS Organization Flow Chart Approval

Jim Utterback moved to approved the MHS Organizational Flow Chart, Judy Cole seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Research Center Fee Increase

Molly Kruckenberg requested that the Research Center be allowed to increase the fee for duplicating microfilm due to an increase in charges from their supplier. The increase will cover the cost of duplication plus 30% in order to cover staff time. **Jack Lepley moved to approve the Research Center Fee Increase for duplicating microfilm, Steve Lozar seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Montana Heritage Commission Draft Rules for Deaccession

Jeff Tiberi, Executive Director of the Montana Heritage Commission, presented the Draft Sale ARM Rules Overview and pointed out three categories: real property, personal property other than Bovey assets, and Bovey assets. The Virginia City project has about 160 acres, and in that there are 42 unconnected parcels of land. The recent insurance values for replacement costs of the assets has increased to over \$30 million (it was purchased at \$6.5 million in 1997). The ARM rules are not ready to approve yet. Jeff will meet with MHS staff to incorporate the Antiquities Act into the presented draft. Mark Baumler said that per statute, the MHS Board has a role in the deaccession of the Bovey assets. Jeff said that the statute states that nothing moves forward in decreasing the Bovey assets unless there is a majority vote among a committee of two Montana Heritage Commission members and two MHS Board of Trustees. He also thanked the Board for allowing him to participate in the hiring of the new MHS Director. Jeff invited the Board to a personal “behind the scenes” tour of Virginia City.

Other New Business

Mark Baumler reported on his recent visit with Art Ortenberg and Liz Claiborne at the Montana Heritage Project Youth Heritage Festival. Art wanted to know if MHS was still interested in having the Heritage Project continue to be a part of the Historical Society. Mark suggested that Board members pass a resolution that could be sent to Mr. Ortenberg:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees wishes to express its continued appreciation to the Ortenberg-Claiborne Foundation for their conception, nurturing, and ongoing support of the Montana Heritage Project and that the Board welcomes the opportunity and would be proud to continue to operate the Montana Heritage Project as an integral program within the Society’s mission to educate all about Montana’s significant past.”

Jim Utterback moved to accept this resolution, Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PRESIDENT’S UPDATES

Awards Committee Update

Shirley Groff said that the Trustee’s and Educator’s Award Policy was edited. To keep the integrity of the awards, it should be kept to one award recipient. Gena Ashmore explained that the criteria section was not changed, but the method of selection section was edited, and how the awards would be promoted was added. Nominations can be turned into Gena and must be submitted by May 15. Forms are available on the MHS website. **Shirley Groff moved to**

approve the new guidelines for the Educator's and Trustee's Award documents, Jim Utterback seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Marketing/Membership Committee Update

Shirley Groff reported that a lot of information was put out on the table at a meeting earlier in the day. Lee Rostad suggested that Shirley could talk with Susan Near a little more then email some of the ideas to the other Board members.

Nominations Committee – Present Nominations for Officers

Bill Holt complimented Lee Rostad for doing an outstanding job as the current President. As a past President, Lee will be on the Executive Committee. Bill nominated Judy Cole as the next President, Sharon Lincoln as Vice-President, Jim Murry as Secretary, Tom Foor to remain on the Executive Committee, and Shirley Groff as Executive Committee member. If Judy is not reappointed to the Board, everyone will move up a level. Bill asked if there were any nominations from the floor, no other nominations were given, and he closed the matter. **Jim Murry moved to accept Bill Holt's nominations, Bob Morgan seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Policy Handbook Committee

Lee Rostad presented the Board members with a list of Board of Trustees Objectives to be placed in their Trustee's Manual. MHS staff has been updating the appropriate sections in the *Statement of Philosophical and Procedural Guidelines* handbook. Gena Ashmore explained some of the revisions and additions. Mark Baumler commented that anything in this document should be subject to Board scrutiny at any time. Bill Holt suggested that the Policy Handbook Review Committee look at the handbook annually. Lee Rostad said that the bylaws state that review should be every two years. **Jim Murry moved that the Board of Trustees will look at the handbook and vote by email on its approval within 30 days, Jim Utterback seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Director Search Committee

Mark pointed out the minutes from the past Director Search Committee meetings which were included in the Board Members' packets. The Search Committee narrowed the competition to nine candidates, and within those nine, it selected three to interview in person: Jerry Ostermiller, Columbia River Maritime Museum, Astoria, Oregon; Dennis Zembala, Detroit Historical Museum; and Richard Sims, Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott, Arizona. Lorne Render was one of the top three candidates initially but withdrew his application. The candidates will be coming the first week of May for interviews, and they will have an opportunity to meet with the Search Committee, MHS staff and Program Managers, the Governor, Jeff Tiberi, and Amy Sullivan.

Kent Kleinkopf requested that he also attend the meetings with the candidates, and Mark said he would send out an email to notify the Board members what days the candidates will be available. Jack Lepley asked if the entire Board chooses the Director, and Lee responded that the Executive

Committee will select one and submit it to the rest of the Board for approval, most likely through a conference call. Katherine Lee requested that they be able to view the applications of the candidates during this conference call. Jack Lepley stated that he thinks all Board members should be involved with the selection process. The two biggest decisions he would make while on the Board would be selecting a Director and what to do about the History Center. Jim Utterback suggested that the interviews on May 3, 4, and 5 be open to any Board member that would like to attend. It was decided that if a Trustee wanted to meet the candidates, Thursday would be the ideal day as all candidates would be available on that day. It was also decided that copies of the applications for the three candidates to interview would be sent to all Board Members, and that these would need to be returned when the search was over.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Lozar complimented the MHS Education Office on their Hands-On History Footlocker "To Learn a New Way" which includes discussion of the Indian boarding schools. This Footlocker had been distributed to the Salish-Kootenai schools. He said it was done tastefully and with great sensitivity. He pointed out that the woman on the front cover of the Montana Heritage Project magazine is a former Tribal Council member. Steve also thanked Lee Rostad for making him feel welcome as a Trustee and wished Judy Cole the best as a potential successor.

STAFF COMMENT

Tom Cook relayed a concern that the Governor's Office and MHS be on the same page regarding the History Center. Tom will work with the Governor's Public Affairs Office and most likely Keith Kelly when the offer/appraisal comes out. He reiterated the importance of working closely and quickly with the Governor's Office during this process.

Gena pointed out the new Trustee's Handbook with the picture of Bob Morgan on the front, and she handed out an information packet from the Original Governor's Mansion.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting, Jim Utterback seconded, all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.